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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
PA-01 PRS-01 /104 W
----------022257Z 038402 /13
R 021523Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 528

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4277

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, MNUC, SP
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ENERGY: SENSATIONALIST ARTICLE

1. POPULAR SEX AND SCANDAL MAGAZINE INTERVIW IN JUNE 2-8
ISSUE CARRIES ARTICLE TITLED "SPAIN HAS THE ATOMIC BOMB."
ARTICLE UNDER OMINOUS CARTOON OF MUSHROOM CLOUD STAMPED
"MADE IN SPAIN" AND "IMPORTED OF (SIC) USA" DRAWS ON
ARTICLE WRITTEN BY HOWARD KOHN FOR US WEEKLY ROLLING STONE
TO SAY THAT ACCORDING TO "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION"
OBTAINED FROM "US MILITARY SOURCES" SPAIN IS ONE OF
SEVERAL COUNTRIES THAT HAS AN "UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF
BOMBS." CITES SPANISH IMPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS
AS PROOF THAT SPAIN HAS BUILT BOMBS. THROWS IN "BASEMENT
BOMB" THEORY OF PRINCETON STUDENT JOHN PHILLIPS, US
PRIVATE SALE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES,
SUPPLY OF PLUTONIUM FROM NON-EXISTENT REPROCESSING PLANT
IN THE UK, PAKISTAN'S PURCHASE OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY
FROM FRANCE, AND THE BRAZILIAN "DICTATORSHIP'S "SIMILAR
PURCHASE FROM WEST GERMANY, AS PROOF THAT ANY COUNTRY
CAN OBTAIN BOMB MAKING MATERIALS, CITING LATEST MEMBERS
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CLUB BEING "GADAFFI (LIBYA) AND
IDI AMIN (UGANDA)."
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2. COMMENT: ARTICLE IS RIDICULOUS IN THE EXTREME.
ALTHOUGH SPAIN HAS THE SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY TO BUILD ONE, IT
HAS NO ATOMIC BOMB NOR ANY PLANS TO BUILD ONE.
EMBOFF OBTAINED ESTIMATE FROM PRIVATE SPANISH NUCLEAR
ENERGY EXPERT THAT SPANISH MILITARY SPENDS ABOUT $1.5
MILLION PER YEAR ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT,

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ROUGHLY ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN AN UP TO DATE KNOWLEDGE OF
NUCLEAR WEAPON DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES BUT
NO WHERE NEAR THE SUMS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR
WEAPONS IN SPAIN.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS BECOME, AS IN
OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AN ELEMENT IN THE UPCOMING
ELECTIONS. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN ONLY RATHER MILD DEBATE
ON THE SUBJECT OTHER THAN IN THE SPECIFIC LOCALES
WHERE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS ARE BEING BUILT. HOWEVER,
SPECIOUS ARTICLES SUCH AS THIS ONE HEIGHTEN ATTENTION
TO THIS SUBJECT BY VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS, AND COULD CON-
CEIVABLY DISRUPT WORK ON THE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS.STABLER

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR BOMBS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Subject: NUCLEAR ENERGY: SENSATIONALIST ARTICLE
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, MNUC, SP, US, (KOHN, HOWARD)
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Type: TE
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